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Message Text

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10
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EB-07 NRC-05 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00

ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 MC-02 DHA-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01

AID-05 IGA-02 MMO-01 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ISO-00 /090 W
---------- 068136
R 201723Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1968
INFO USCINCSO
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 3091

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, UY
SUBJ: TERMINATION OF MILGRP

REF: STATE 201994 (132137Z AUG 76)

1. THE ABASSADOR INFORMED THE FONMINISTER AND THE MINDEFENSE, IN THAT ORDER, OF THE DECISION TO TERMINATE THE MILGRP IN URUGUAY, OF THE PROVISION OF LAW REQUIRING IT, AND OF OUR PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE SECURITY ASSISTANCE HERE BY MEANS OF A THREE-MAN TEAM ATTACHED TO THE EMBASSY. THE FONMINISTER LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AND WITH OBVIOUS CONCERN, PRESUMABLY FEARING THAT THIS ACTION HAD PUNITIVE INTENT INSOFAR AS URUGUAY IS CONCERNED. HE WAS MUCH RELIEVED, HOWEVER, WHEN HE STUDIED THE PROVISION OF LAW WHICH WAS HANDED TO HIM AS WELL AS THE LIST OF THE ELEVEN COUNTRIES SCHEDULED FOR TERMINATION THIS YEAR. WHILE EXPRESSING REGRET FOR THE CHANGE, HE NONETHELESS THEN INDICATED HIS UNDERSTANDING AND BELIEF THAT URUGUAY WOULD WISH TO CONTINUE WORKING INTHE MANNER SUGGESTED.

2. THE FONMINISTER HAD OBVIOUSLY BRIEFED THE MINDEFENSE BEFORE MY MEETING WITH HIM. HE ALSO EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING, ALONG WITH
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REGRET, AND STATED OPTIMISTICALLY THAT HE HOPED A CONTINUING,

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MUTUALLY USEFUL PROGRAM COULD BE MAINTAINED WITH THE THREE-
MAN TEAM ATTACHED TO THE EMBASSY. HE ALSO EXPRESSED TENTATIVE
AGREEMENT WITH THE AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS AS TO WHAT WE BELIEVED
THE COMPOSITION OF THIS TEAM SHOULD BE.

3. THE MILGRP COMMANDER THEREAFTER VISITED EACH OF THE SERVICE
CHIEFS TO CONVEY THE NEWS TO THEM DIRECTLY. HE STATED THAT THE
OBVIOUS REACTION OF EACH OF THEM WAS DISAPPOINTMENT AND THAT THE
NEWS TRIGGERED A LECTURE ON THE PART OF ONE OF THEM WHO BELIEVED
THE USG DOES NOT REALIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE COMMUNIST
THREAT IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. THERE WAS ALSO, HE SAID,
A LINGERING SUSPICION THAT PUNITIVE ACTION BECAUSE OF HUMAN
RIGHTS CRITICISM OF URUGUAY WAS INVOLVED. HOWEVER, AS WITH THE
CASE OF THE FONMINISTER, WHEN THEY REVIEWED THE LIST OF
COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE ACT THEY SEEMED TO BE SATISFIED
ON THIS GROUND.
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